



Media release

Basel, 25 March 2014

MCH Group: An exceptional financial year in 2013 with record sales

- **Operating income CHF 472.6 million**
Striking increase in sales by 21.1% to a new all-time high
- **EBITDA CHF 80.0 million**
Operating result boosted by 23.8%
- **Group profit CHF 30.5 million**
Profit up 11.3% over previous year despite higher depreciations and a greater financial outlay for the new Messe Basel hall complex

The completion and commissioning of the new hall complex in Basel, the implementation of the new concept for the Baselworld Watch and Jewellery Show, and the first staging of Art Basel in Hong Kong – the 2013 financial year was an exceptional one for the MCH Group, which takes in MCH Messe Basel, MCH Messe Zürich, MCH Beaulieu Lausanne and a number of event-services companies. This is reflected in a highly gratifying operating result.

With operating income of CHF 472.6 million (2012 CHF 390.2 million; 2011 CHF 323.9 million), the consolidated income statement for 2013 shows a group profit of CHF 30.5 million (2012 CHF 27.4 million; 2011 CHF 20.7 million). The consolidated total assets at the end of the reporting year were CHF 930.0 million (2012, CHF 885.8 million, 2011 CHF 743.9 million), with an equity ratio of 38.3%. Investments totalling CHF 54.8 million were made in the course of the reporting year. The price of the MCH Group's registered shares rose 9.3% from CHF 54.40 to CHF 59.55.

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Additional financial outlay offset

The operating income of CHF 472.6 million achieved in 2013 is 21.1% above the previous year, which was stronger due to the staging of Swissbau, and 45.9 % above the 2011 business year. It marks the highest value in the MCH Group's history. This striking increase in operating income is attributable primarily to the Baselworld Watch and Jewellery Show, Art Basel in Basel, Miami Beach and Hong Kong and also the stand construction business. With the new concept for Baselworld which was implemented in conjunction with the commissioning of the new hall complex in Basel, a new price system and an extended range of services were also introduced. The production of a large number of new stands also had a positive impact on the stand construction business.

Through the improved earning power, it proved possible to more than offset the higher expenditure associated with the new concept for Baselworld and the extra financial outlay for the new hall complex at Messe Basel. Despite this additional outlay, the EBITDA, at CHF 80.0 million and the group profit at CHF 30.5 million, are clearly above the previous years.

Key figures by business field

Exhibitions: By comparison with the previous years, operating income in the Exhibitions business field was boosted by CHF 62.3 million (23.2%) and CHF 105.8 million (47.1%) respectively, to CHF 330.6 million. This corresponds to a share of 70.0% of the overall operating income of the MCH Group. The exhibition companies in the MCH Group organised 28 exhibitions last year and were involved in a further four exhibitions in the form of joint ventures. Thirteen of these 32 exhibitions were held in Basel, ten in Lausanne, six in Zurich, two in Miami Beach and one in Hong Kong. These 32 exhibitions registered 8394 exhibiting companies and 1 593 455 visitors.

Infrastructure: After consolidation, an operating income of CHF 28.4 million was achieved in 2013 with the rental of halls and rooms at the locations of Basel, Lausanne and Zurich to third-party organisers. This is CHF 2.2 million (- 7.2%) and CHF 3.0 million (- 9.6%) respectively below the previous years and accounts for 6% of group sales. In the reporting year of 2013, rental business in Basel, Lausanne and Zurich took in 51 exhibitions staged by external organisers, which attracted 6589 exhibiting companies and 464 349 visitors. In addition, 39 congresses with 25 150 participants and more than 460 further events were held in the Congress Centers in Basel and Lausanne.

Event Services: At CHF 113.6 million, operating income after consolidation for the Event Services business field is CHF 22.3 million (24.4%) and CHF 45.9 million (67.8%) respectively above the previous years. This represents 24% of overall sales. In the 2013 reporting year, the Rufener events agency took charge of 72 events, the stand construction company Expomobilia carried out 337 projects and, in the field of event technology, Winkler Multi Media Events was involved in 1380 projects.

Motions to the General Meeting

The Board of Directors will submit a proposal to the General Meeting on 22 May 2014 for the payment of a dividend of 5%.

The Board of Directors will submit a proposal to the General meeting for Rolando Benedick, René C. Jäggi, Dr. Karin Lenzlinger Diedenhofen, Dr. Ulrich Vischer and Martin Vollenwyder to be confirmed in office as members of the Board of Directors for a further term of one year. The Board will similarly propose to the General Meeting that Dr. Ulrich Vischer be confirmed in office as Chairman of the Board of Directors for a further year.

In implementing the "Ordinance against excessive remuneration in listed companies" (VegüV), the Board of Directors will submit a partial revision of the Statutes to the General Meeting. The revised Statutes will include the provisions required by the VegüV regarding the election of the members of the Board of Directors and the approval of the remuneration for the members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Board. In the interests of legal certainty, the Board of Directors is submitting the amended Statutes right now, even though the VegüV stipulates that they do not need to be submitted until the 2015 General Meeting. At the same time as the new provisions are implemented, the MCH Group will be introducing an electronic voting system at the 2014 General Meeting.

Sustainability report

Together with the Annual Report 2013, the MCH Group will be publishing a Sustainability Report for the first time in accordance with the guidelines for the "Global Reporting Initiative" (GRI).

Further information:

Publication of the 2013 Annual Report and Sustainability Report and the documents for the 2014 General Meeting:

30 April 2014

General Meeting 2014:

22 May 2014

Online:

www.mch-group.com

Media release:

→ News / Media Releases / MCH Group Ltd.

<http://www.mch-group.com/en-US/News/Media/MediaMCHGroup.aspx>

Group balance sheet, Group income statement:

→ News / Reports

<http://www.mch-group.com/en-US/News/Reports.aspx>

Key figures for events and event services:

→ MCH Group / Key Figures

<http://www.mch-group.com/en-US/MCHGroup/GlobalLiveMarketing/Figures.aspx>

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